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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
First session
Geneva, 9 - 13 September 1991

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights will be opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. This opening is scheduled to take place on 9 September 1991.

Item 2. Election of officers

2. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990, by which the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee, at its first session, shall elect a five-member bureau composed of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, with due regard to equitable geographic representation.

3. In accordance with paragraph 8 of Commission for Human Rights resolution 1991/30 of 5 March 1991, the Secretary-General of the World Conference has arranged for informal consultations among all Member States of the United Nations to take place one working day before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in order to prepare for the election of the five officers of the Committee.

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Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and the rules of procedure

4. The provisional agenda has been drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference following General Assembly resolution 45/155, paragraphs 2 and 3; account has been taken of the recommendation by the Commission contained in paragraph 11 of its resolution 1991/30. By paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the Commission recommended that the rules of procedure governing the meetings of the Preparatory Committee should in so far as applicable be those of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Item 4. Organization of work

5. A provisional programme of work (A/CONF.157/PC/2) has been drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference taking into account the limited time available and paragraph 11 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/30.

6. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its present session, the Committee may wish to establish time-limits on the length and/or number of statements to the meeting. The Committee may also wish to encourage participants to make joint statements, to the extent possible, as well as statements addressed to more than one item of the agenda.

Item 5. Agenda, rules of procedure, dates, duration, venue of and participation at the World Conference

7. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/155, which mandates the Committee to make proposals for the consideration of the Assembly regarding the agenda, dates, duration, venue of and participation at the Conference. The Preparatory Committee may further wish to bear in mind other provisions of the same resolution, notably paragraph 7 concerning the cost of the participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Conference and paragraph 10 which requests Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, inter alia, to participate actively in the Conference.

8. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 1991/30, the Commission recommended that the Preparatory Committee prepare the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for United Nations conferences. In paragraph 12 of the same resolution, the Commission recommended to the Preparatory Committee, when discussing the agenda for the World Conference, to base its work on the objectives outlined in operative paragraph 1 of Assembly resolution 45/155, the recommendations annexed to Commission resolution 1991/30 and any other guidelines that may be adopted by the Assembly. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn, in particular, to recommendations 1-7 and 9-11 of the guidelines annexed to Commission resolution 1991/30.

9. At its present session the Committee will have before it a letter from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/4).

Item 6. Preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels

10. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/155, which mandates the Committee to make proposals for the consideration of the Assembly regarding preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels. Recommendation 8 of the guidelines annexed to Commission resolution 1991/30 recommends that the Preparatory Committee should promote and consider means of financing regional meetings and activities, and encourage various activities at the national level.

Item 7. Studies and other documentation for the World Conference

11. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/155, which mandates the Committee to make proposals for the consideration of the Assembly regarding studies and other documentation for the Conference. By paragraph 13 of its resolution 1991/30, the Commission recommended that the Secretary-General of the Conference should make suggestions to the Preparatory Committee regarding background documentation, including reference material on sources of information in the field of human rights.

Item 8. Organization of the work of future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

12. The Preparatory Committee may wish to consider formulating specific recommendations for its future work.

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly

13. By paragraph 13 of its resolution 45/155, the General Assembly requested the Preparatory Committee to report to it at its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions on the progress of work of the Committee.